



Statement after the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits and more than three months after the application filing date. Accordingly, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

Written notification that the enclosed references have been considered in their entirety, by return of a copy of the enclosed form completed by the examiner, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231,

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July 18, 2002  
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